

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9751

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, UR, CZ

SUBJECT: PROTEST ON BOMBING

REF: PRAGUE 0605, STATE 057229

1. ZANTOVSKY, HEAD OF SIXTH DEPT MFA, CALLED IN CHARGE MARCH 9 TO DELIVER NOTE OF PROTEST ON BOMBING OF CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES (CSA) OFFICE IN NEW YORK. TEST IS APPENDED.

2. ZANTOVSKY DELIVERED THIS PROTEST VERY MUCH AS HE HAD MADE HIS STATEMENT (WHICH WAS NOT A PROTEST) ABOUT THE RECENT STRAUSSOVA INCIDENT IN NEW YORK, THAT IS MORE IN CONCERN THAN IN ANGER. SINCE CHARGE HAD NOT YET HEARD ABOUT THE INCIDENT, HE HAD TO LISTEN TO GOC VERSION OF THE FACTS. (WE WILL POINT OUT TO MFA THAT, AS ARMITAGE TOLD BUZEK, IT NOW APPEARS BOMB WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST CSA.) ZANTOVSKY, WHO SPOKE RATHER SYMPATHETICALLY AS AN OLD US HAND, WAS DEFINITELY NONPOLEMICAL IN TONE, POINT OUT THAT THEY WERE MAINLY CONCERNED WITH DANGER TO LIVES OF THEIR EMPLOYEES AND TO ASSURING SAFE CONDITIONS OF WORK. CHARGE EXPRESSED REGRET FOR INCIDENT, PROMISED TO REPORT PROTEST PROMPTLY, AND SAID HE FELT SURE THERE WOULD BE THROUGH INVESTIGATION AND THAT USG WOULD DO EVERY-

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THING WITHIN ITS POWER TO FURNISH SAFE WORKING

CONDITIONS TO CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS IN US.

3. DURING DISCUSSION, ZANTOVSKY ALSO MENTIONED RECENT INCIDENT IN WASHINGTON IN WHICH CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY WAS TRICKED BY "BODY" LYING IN STREET AND, WHEN HE STOPPED TO HELP, WAS MUGGED AND HIS CAR LOOTED. ZANTOVSKY SAID HE WAS NOT BRINGING THIS UP OFFICIALLY, SINCE IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON, BUT WANTED CHARGE TO KNOW IT WAS PART OF SERIES OF INCIDENTS WHICH HELPED EXPLAIN CURRENT GOC CONCERN ABOUT ITS OFFICIALS' SAFETY IN US.

4. MARCH 10 RUDE PRAVO CARRIES CTF STORY OF BOMBING DATELINED NEW YORK ON PAGE ONE, AS WELL AS ACCOUNT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S "SHARP PROTEST."

5. COMMENT: CHARGE HAD CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT ZANTOVSKY WAS MAKING AS LITTLE OF THIS AS HE COULD, AND IN FACT HE ALL BUT SAID SO. AT END OF PROTEST PRESENTATION, ZANTOVSKY CHANGED SUBJECT AND DISCUSSED MATTERS OF BILATERAL INTEREST, IN RATHER OPTIMISTIC TERMS, FOR FORTY-FIVE MINUTES. IN EVENING, AT RECEPTION CHARGE GAVE FOR DEPARTING ECOM CHIEF FARRAND AND ARRIVING ECOM CHIEF MONTGOMERY, ZANTOVSKY TOLD CHARGE HE REGRETTED HAVING TO MAKE FORMAL PROTEST IN SUCH A MATTER. VISITING WASHPOST CORRESPONDENT DODER, WHO INTERVIEWED DEPUTY FONMIN SPACIL SAME DAY, REPORTED UPBEAT PRESENTATION BY SPACIL ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS. ALL IN ALL, PROTEST SEEMED PRETTY PRO FORMA.

6. TEXT OF NOTE (MFA TRANSLATION) FOLLOWS:

"THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOR TO DRAW THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING:

"AS THE EMBASSY IS OBVIOUSLY AWARE, A BOMB ATTACK TOOK PLACE IN THE NIGHT OF 8 TO 9 MARCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1976 ON THE OFFICE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES IN NEW YORK, RESULTING IN CONSIDERABLE MATERIAL DAMAGE.

"THE MINISTRY REGARDS THE INCIDENT AS A GRAVE ANTI-CZECHOSLOVAK PROVOCATION AND IS THEREFORE OBLIGED TO LODGE TO THE EMBASSY ITS STRONG PROTEST. THE MINISTRY DEMANDS AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA, WHICH BEARS FULL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THAT DANGEROUS ATTACK, SHOULD DULY ENSURE
THE PROTECTION OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CZECHO-
SLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC LIVING IN THE UNITED
STATES AND HER PROPERTY AGAINST ATTACKS OF
TERRORIST AND OTHER SIMILAR GROUPS, FULLY COVER
THE COSTS FOR REPAIRS AND ALL OTHER DAMAGES,
DULY PUNISH THE OFFENDERS AND ADOPT RESOLUTE
MEASURES FOR PREVENTING SIMILAR TERRORIST
ATTACKS IN FUTURE.

"THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS
ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE
ASSURANCES OF ITS CONSIDERATION."
PERRY

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